

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MARCH 23, 2015

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 23, 2015 with Commissioners Bruce Levi, Mark Bacon and Paul Wilkinson, Mary Ann Beard Auditor and Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance.

Commissioner Bruce Levi called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the March 9th meeting were approved on a motion by Mark Bacon. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sandy Fussner, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce reported the 2015 Rush Fest will be held on September 19th and the 2016 festival will be held on September 24th in connection with the State bicentennial.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Kim Roe, Health Department Food Inspector and Julie Newhouse the Board of Health Attorney presented an amended food permit schedule. The Health Department adopted a resolution establishing the fees. Paul Wilkinson moved to adopt the county ordinance for food establishments and vendors. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Jeff Plasterer, Wayne County Councilman and Mayor Mike Pavey presented a resolution intended to establish a new Regional Planning Commission. Rush County had participated in the EIDD which has been dissolved. Plasterer is spearheading an effort to establish a six county economic development organization. Membership in such an organization is required to attain any economic development funds at the federal level. Counties will be assessed \$.40 per resident which equals \$6,802 for Rush County. The resolution adopted by the county will then be presented to the Governor. Mark Bacon moved to approve the resolution and to become partners in funding the new commission. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IVY TECH

Mr. Plasterer also serves as Executive Director of Ivy Tech, Connersville. Satellite classes are currently being conducted at the Rush/Shelby Energy building in Rushville. Since the county is in the process of purchasing that building, Mr. Plasterer asked if there would be any changes to the existing tenants. Commissioner Levi stated there would be no change at the current time.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Leigh Morning presented information which contracts with the legal firm, Barnes & Thornburg for the purpose of representing Rush County as a lobbyist to the Indiana General Assembly. The purpose is to incorporate Rush County into existing House Bill 1472 which would give the county the opportunity to increase the county adjusted gross income tax for the building and operation of a new jail. The cost of lobby services is \$15,000. Paul Wilkinson moved to sign the memorandum of understanding and the letter of engagement with Barnes & Thornburg. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported the inmate count at 30. There were 11 burglaries reported in the last week most have been stolen cooper wire. An infestation of bedbugs had forced the sheriff to transfer female prisoners and sex offenders to Shelby County while the jail could be fumigated and new mattress could be purchased.

Sheriff Cowan also requested that the Commissioners sign three titles so that vehicles could be traded for the purchase of two new Dodge Chargers and a 2010 Chevy Tahoe. Mark Bacon moved to sign the titles and Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EMS

Emergency Medical Service runs were reported by Rush Memorial Hospital, Carthage Ambulance Service, and Anderson Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Mark Bacon moved to approve claims as presented. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Payroll claims were approved with the exception of Jail Commander, Brett Turner. Mark Bacon made the motion to pay payroll but Mr. Tuner will receive vacation pay but not sick pay. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Commission Levi abstaining. Mark Bacon moved to adjourn. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion.

/s/ Bruce Levi
Bruce Levi, Chairman

/s/ Mark Bacon
Mark Bacon

/s/ Paul Wilkinson
Paul Wilkinson

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor